

News from SALEM COUNTY

Office of Public Information

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SALEM COUNTY OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECEIVES FUNDING FROM NJ GREEN ACRES PROGRAM

(SALEM, NJ) – Freeholder Deputy Director Beth E. Timberman today announced that program funding has been awarded by the NJ Green Acres Program to provide matching grants for open space purchases. The Salem County Open Space Advisory Committee is actively encouraging applications from community and non-profit groups for matching funding for projects to acquire open spaces for permanent preservation.

"We are encouraging applications for the program to ultimately keep our county green," said Freeholder Timberman. "It is our responsibility to recognize open space as part of economic growth and an important resource for the billion dollar tourism industry."

According to an article in the Resource Paper published by the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commission, open space is essential for modern life. Once developed, land can't be returned to its natural state. There are many reasons to preserve open space, such as to ensure the health and diversity of animal and plant communities, to maintain New Jersey's thriving outdoor tourism industry, giving places to fish, swim, boat, hunt and hike, and to preserve our connection with the natural world.

"The Freeholders will provide matching funds of up to 50% of the purchase price of lands that are being acquired for open space preservation in accordance with the Salem County Open Space and Recreation Plan," said Deputy Director Timberman. "The Freeholders have established a deadline for application submission of September 20, 2009. Applications will be reviewed on the basis of environmental and locational factors, and for consistency with County and local Open Space plans."

The Open Space Plan may be viewed on the Salem County website and application forms are available for download on the website or by calling Kris Alexander, 856-769-3708 or the Salem County Department of Planning and Agriculture at 856-935-7510 ext 8413.